

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-3 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 4 (previously presented):** An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the switch housing (4; 6) consists of
15 two sections, with a base plate (4) containing the contact
16 surfaces (2) and a cover (6) with an opening (6') through
17 which protrudes a part of the switching element (1) with a
18 diaphragm (5), wherein said two housing sections (4; 6) are
19 connected in self-locking fashion by clamping or welding.

1 **Claim 5 (previously presented):** An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the switching element (1) is pin-
15 shaped and has a round or oval cross section while its end
16 (1'), which makes contact with the contact surfaces (2) is
17 rounded into a convex tip.

1 **Claim 6 (previously presented):** An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a

8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein, in the area where it rests against
15 the switching element (1) and/or in the transition area
16 between the switching element (1) and its connection to the
17 switch housing (4; 6), the diaphragm (5) is provided on its
18 inside and/or outside with one or several notches (7).

1 **Claim 7 (currently amended):** The switch according to
2 claim 1any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switching
3 element (1) comprises a metal.

Claim 8 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 9 (previously presented):** An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in a switch housing at least one
3 electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with

9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2), wherein the contact surfaces (2) comprise
15 contact pins (3) whose ends (2) facing the switching
16 element (1) are hemispherical or mushroom-shaped.

1 **Claim 10 (currently amended)** : The switch according to
2 claim any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the switch
3 housing (4; 6) comprises a 2-component injection-molded
4 plastic material.

1 **Claim 11 (currently amended)** : Use of a switch per one
2 of the claims 1, 2 and 4-10 4, 5, 6 and 9 in miniaturized
3 devices.

1 **Claim 12 (currently amended)** : The switch according to
2 claim any one of claims 4 and 16, wherein the elastic
3 diaphragm (5) comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 13 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 14 (previously presented)** : The use of the switch
2 according to claim 11, wherein the miniaturized devices are

3 hearing aids.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

1 **Claim 16 (previously presented):** An electromechanical
2 switch incorporating in its switch housing at least one pin
3 shaped, electrically conductive switching element (1) with
4 associated electrically conductive contact surfaces (2),
5 wherein an area of the switching element (1) that faces
6 away from the contact surfaces is at least partly enclosed
7 by an elastic diaphragm (5) which also encloses at least a
8 region containing the contact surfaces (2) associated with
9 the switching element (1) and tightly butts against the
10 switch housing (4; 6) wherein said diaphragm (5) is
11 prestressed in a transition area between the switching
12 element (1) and the housing (4; 6), thus resiliently
13 pressing the switching element (1) against the contact
14 surfaces (2) to establish an electrically conductive
15 connection between the contact surfaces.

Claim 17 (cancelled)